

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICAE-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00 MCT-02 HA-05 /057 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6138

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 10637

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: BASQUES MOVE TOWARD BREAK ON CONSTITUTION

1. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA TOLD EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 13 THAT CONSTITUTIONAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH BASQUE NATIONAL PARTY (PNV) HAD BROKEN DOWN AND THAT LATTER WOULD VERY SHORTLY ANNOUNCE THAT CONSTITUTION WAS UNACCEPTABLE. AREILZA SAID PNV STATEMENT WOULD RELATE TO PRESENT CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFT, BUT HE DOUBTED THAT DIFFERENCES COULD NOW BE RECONCILED.

2. AREILZA BLAMED GOVERNMENT FOR MISHANDLING BASQUE PROBLEMS THROUGH EXCESSIVE RIGIDITY AND SAID PNV DISASSOCIATION FROM CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS WOULD MEAN THAT ETHNIC BASQUE VOTERS WOULD SIMPLY NOT TURN OUT IN REFERENDUM AND THAT THE CONSTITUTION WOULD IN THEIR VIEW BE "IMPOSED" ON THEM BY THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. THIS HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE SITUATION WOULD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, BE USED BY ETA TO JUSTIFY FURTHER TERRORISM.

3. COMMENT: WE HAD HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES AND PNV STATEMENTS THAT PRESENT DRAFT WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO BASQUES. THE PNV'S MOTIVES PRESUMABLY WOULD BE TO MAINTAIN THE CREDIBILITY OF THE MODERATE BASQUE LEADERS. PNV ACTION
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WOULD ENJOY SUPPORT OF ETHNIC BASQUES AND IF UNRESOLVED WOULD POSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO SUAREZ GOVERNMENT.
TODMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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